

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the delivery of a therapeutic agent comprising:

(A) a therapeutic agent; and

(B) an effective amount of a protein or peptide selected from the group consisting of rotavirus VP8 protein₁[[.]] one or more peptide(s) derived from VP8₁[[.]] a fusion protein or fusion peptide comprising VP8 protein or a peptide derived from VP8₁ and or a mixture[[s]] thereof, wherein said protein or peptide induces opening of tight junctions between epithelial or endothelial cells, thereby enhancing wherein said protein or peptide enhances passage of said therapeutic agent through epithelia and endothelia.

9. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein said composition is an oral dosage composition.

10. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein said composition is a nasal dosage composition.

11. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein said composition is a cutaneous dosage composition.

12. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein said composition is a vaginal dosage composition.

13. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein said composition is a rectal dosage composition.

14. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein said composition is in the form of an aerosol dosage composition.

15. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein said composition is an intravenous dosage composition.

16. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein said therapeutic agent is a drug, a peptide with biological activity, a vaccine, or any composition that is not adequately absorbed by the transcellular route.

17.-21. (Canceled)

22. **(Original)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16, wherein said biologically active peptide is selected from the group consisting of a hormone, lymphokine, globulin and albumin.

23. **(Original)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 22, wherein said hormone is selected from the group consisting of testosterone, nandrolene, menotropins, insulin and urofolltropin.

24.-30. **(Canceled)**

31. **(Original)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 8, wherein said the therapeutic agent is insulin.

32.-42. **(Canceled)**

43. **(Previously presented)** The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 8 further comprising an acceptable pharmaceutical vehicle.

44. **(Canceled)**

45. **(Previously presented)** The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 8, wherein said one or more peptide(s) derived from VP8 consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 or SEQ ID NO: 7.

46. **(New)** The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 8, wherein said VP8 protein consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.